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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 40 Berkeley, California, December, 1958 Number 12

SEPTEMBER TRIP TO ALAMEDA

About 45 members and guests met in Lincoln Park, Alameda, on Saturday morning, September 21. The weather was warm and sunny and there was little stir of wind during the day. After a brief survey of the park, the group proceeded to Frontage Road in Oakland to the shore bird loafing ground that edges San Leandro Bay. The receding tide made it possible to walk into the marshland for a close look at the thousands of birds congregated in the area. From there the party proceeded to the west end of Bay Farm Island to watch birds on the feeding grounds on the San Francicso Bay shore.

Most exciting of the birds seen were Northern Phalaropes in the pools at the loafing grounds, 8 Clapper Rails seen in four different locations on Bay Farm Island, 2 Wandering Tattlers feeding among the rocks at the edge of San Francisco Bay, and a flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds in the marshland in the same area.

Newly filled-in land on the south shore of Alameda seems to have changed tide conditions considerably, and spits of land off Doolittle Road that used to appear quickly with the receding tide are now among the last to be uncovered. During the early afternoon a few members of the party visited this section and noted that restrictions on dump burning have resulted in the complete filling in of areas that used to provide good havens for birds. However, a brief tour of the new south shore beaches in Alameda showed that Gulls, Sandpipers, and some of the larger shore birds are now appearing in that teritory.

62 species were seen during the day. In addition to those referred to above there were: Western and Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Common and Snowy Egret, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Turkey Vulture, Sparrow Hawk, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy and Black Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Marbeled Godwit, Sanderling, American Avocet; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, and Ring-billed Gull;

Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Black and Say's Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Horned Lark; Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Common Bushtit, Robin, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-crowned Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark; Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Brown Towhee; Savannah, White-crowned and Song Sparrow.

—ELSIE ROEMER, *Leader and Historian*

SEPTEMBER TRIP TO FLEISHHACKER ZOO AND LAKE MERCED

Almost 30 members and guests enjoyed a warm, sunny day of birding at Fleishhacker Zoo and Lake Merced on Saturday, September 13. It so happened that there was a second important event by Lake Merced that day—the National Amateur Open Golf Tournament. It had a somewhat larger attendance than ours and the police closed the west side of the lake to automobile traffic. We, therefore, happily parked our cars on the east side and strolled across the fishing bridge to delightfully quiet, traffic-free birding. In the middle of the afternoon we went to the north end of the lake, arriving in time for a spectacular view of a flock of 30 White Pelicans flying just overhead.

At the zoo in the morning we decided not to list the Canada, Snow, and White-fronted Geese on the little lake there, thinking they were pinioned. Just after conscientiousness had triumphed, a group of active and noisy small fry arrived. The last we saw of the geese was their take-off for parts unknown, and so they are duly included in the 40 species seen. In addition, the following species were seen: Horned, Eared, and Pied-billed Grebe; White Pelican, Green Heron (there are many on Lake Merced); Mallard, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Rail (heard but not seen—probably a Sora, as one was seen in the same place recently), American Coot, Killdeer, Northern Phalarope (at least 100 on the lake); Herring, California, Ring-billed and Mew Gull; Forster's Tern, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Longbilled Marsh Wren, Robin, Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Redwinged and Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, White-crowned and Song Sparrow.

—AILEEN PIERSON, *Leader and Historian*

CONFERENCE ON CONSERVATION

Conservation at the Local Level was the theme of the 1958 conservation conference held at the Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, November 13-14, under the joint sponsorship of the University of California, the State Department of Natural Resources and the California Conservation Council. The proportion of men in attendance was unprecedented in the history of these conferences, as several lady delegates remarked. Many new faces were present and several noteworthy personalites were recruited as speakers and chairmen.

Dr. Glenn Seaborg, Chancellor of the University of California, and keynote speaker for the public session, portrayed a startling picture of mushrooming state, national, and world populations combined with fast shrinking natural resources. He concluded by outlining possible future salvation in new sources of power, food, water, and better human relations, all subjects of intense research and study at the university.

Mr. Aubrey J. Wagner, General Manager of the famed Tennessee Valley Authority, described the impact of this tremendous program on this formerly backward region and explained that in addition to providing water and power, TVA had to initiate radical new programs of education, recreation, health, and farm practices which have since been taken over by the local government.

Six roundtables with subjects ranging from land-use, soil conservation, and water pollution to the values of recreation programs and community education for conservation, occupied several hours of the crowded session. The roundtable, Community Education for Conservation, which your president chose, included approximately thirty participants among which were a volunteer staff member of the Audubon Center, three Sierra Club spokesmen, several teachers representing all levels from elementary to college, a city mayor, two garden club chairmen, a PTA officer, National Park Service and State Department of Education officials and an oil company public relations representative. This panel generally agreed that more conservation education was imperative from grade school to adult levels but opinions on how to achieve these goals differed widely. It was encouraging to learn that twenty-four California counties are conducting public school camps. However, many are hard-pressed to find competent instructors in conservation. (Here's where Audubon Camp and other similar summer workshops for teachers and youth leaders fill vital need!)

Ethel Richardson sat in on the Recreation Programs roundtable and reported a lively, inspiring session. Lynn Harriss of the Oakland Park Department—a department that sent four delegates to various sessions of the conference—described Oakland's Workreation Program for teenage boys in summer.

The previous day's sessions were planned primarily for regular annual co-operators of the California Conservation Council. These sessions featured some inspiring guest speakers, such as Newton B. Drury, Chief, State Division of Beaches and Parks; William Penn Mott, Jr., Park Department, Oakland; and David R. Brower, Sierra Club. Elmer Aldrich, Executive Officer, California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee, spoke at the annual dinner on *California's Progress in Meeting the Outdoor Recreation Challenge.*

In conclusion, this observer would comment that even more representation of local youth groups would have been welcomed, that we might have shared ways and means and program ideas with them. More advance publicity would have helped and that calls for more workers, a problem we all know too well.

—Paul F. Covel, *President*

CONSERVATION

Regional meetings are being held in the west in regard to the Wilderness Bill, Senate Bill 4028. The one held in San Francisco with Senator Neuberger presiding, November 10, was well attended by both those for and against the bill. Write a letter to your congressman and urge passage of this bill in the next session of Congress!

Wilderness needs at the state level are being surveyed by the California Public Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee, which so far has held two meetings. The National Audubon Society is represented on this committee by Mr. William Goodall, Pacific Coast Director.

The Marin County Board of Supervisors has voted to oppose the proposal of a Point Reyes Seashore Recreation Area but interested local groups are requesting further study and consideration.

Do you know that at present there are no plans for protecting the famed Rainbow Bridge in the national monument of that name from the rising waters of the Glen Canyon Dam. Unless retaining dams are built, and none are in the present plans, 120 feet of water will flood the lower part of the monument and over 50 feet of water will rise to the very foot of the columns of the arch itself.

—Gladys Smith, *Conservation Chairman*

SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Members and friends of the Golden Gate Audubon Society are invited to share the thrill of taking part in the annual San Francisco Christmas Bird Count, December 21, 1958, at 8 a.m. The groups, meeting places and leaders are:

Group 1, Palace of Fine Arts
Lee Stallcup, LO 9-3185
Group 2, McLaren Park, Mission & Geneva, Frank Zografos, TE 4-9660
Group 3, Land's End, Sutro Heights
Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534
Group 4, Golden Gate Park, Fulton & 30th Ave., Dr. Albert Boles, GL 1-6267
Group 5, Golden Gate Park, 10th Ave., Aileen Pierson, JU 7-4163
Group 6, Golden Gate Park, 10th Ave., Florence I. Plymell, PR 6-1208
Group 7, Lake Merced & Fleishhacker Playground, Howard Cogswell, NE 6-1573
Group 8, Stern Grove
Myra Browne, TW 3-5469
Group 9, Seal Rocks & Pacific Ocean, Erline Hevel, PR 5-6498
Group 10, Presidio at Lombard Gate, Carlyle Sather, PL 6-0581
Group 11, San Francisco Bay, foot of Van Ness Ave., Peter A. Veitch, CL 4-2419
Group 12, Treasure & Goat Islands, L. Richard Lenbach, LA 6-7649
Group 13, Smaller City Parks
WE NEED A VOLUNTEER!
Group 14, Marin Shoreline
Elizabeth S. Lennon, ED 2-1641

The official count period is December 20 to January 1. Sign up with the leader of your group and take part in this important team effort. Participants are invited to share the 50¢ entry fee. In addition, this year, species seen during the official count period will be noted.

—Arthur H. Meyer, *Compiler*
TH 5-3080, 25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5

OAKLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The annual East Bay Christmas Bird Count will be taken on Sunday, December 28, in the various parts of a 15-mile diameter circle extending from south of Oakland Airport, north to Point Isabel in southeast Richmond and inland to San Pablo Reservoir and Golf Links Road.

All those who wish to take part will be most welcome. In the past, some of the rarest species have been reported by those who were unable to go afield but devoted what time they could to keeping a close lookout for birds at their feeding stations or in their gardens. Anyone who might be able to contribute in this manner should telephone the compiler. (See below.)

Those who will be able to spend the whole day or most of it, in an assigned area of the circle, either with or under the guidance of a leader, should call one of the group leaders listed below:

Harry Adamson	AT 3-2164
Dr. Albert Boles	GL 1-6267
Paul Covel	KE 6-4120
A. Laurence Curl	LA 6-7004
Charles Hines, Jr.	OV 1-0935
Junea Kelly	LA 2-7084
L. R. Leinbach	LA 6-7649
Phyllis Lindley	LA 4-0308
Arthur Myer	TH 5-3080
Harold G. Peterson	LO 8-7534
Frank Scott	AS 3-1253

—John Ralph, *Compiler,* LA 5-0373

TOMALES BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On Thursday, January 1, 1959, a Christmas count will be taken in the Tomales Bay area. Observers are urgently needed. Last year's count was 155 species. Many common species were missed because of an insufficient number of observers. If able to participate, please contact Phyllis Lindley, LA 4-0308, evenings.

—Phyllis Lindley, *Compiler,* LA 4-0308

FIELD NOTES—Observations made from our house: October 29, 1 White-throated Sparrow; October 30, 2 Golden Eagles; November 1, 1 adult male Lazuli Bunting—an exceptionally late date for this species.

—Harry Adamson, *Lafayette*

A bewildered Hermit Thrush was hopping along the floor of the Reading Room of the main Berkeley Public Library shortly after dark on November 6. It finally stopped to rest on an appropriate spot in the fiction stacks, the H shelf. I left my post at the Reference Desk to rush to the rescue. A high school girl held her coat over the shelf while I reached in and gently picked up the frightened bird. After I put it in a shrub behind the library, it flew

up toward the lighted windows and then landed on the pavement of a blind alley. When I rescued it the second time, the Hermit Thrush grasped my fingers very tightly and seemed ready to roost on it for the night.

—VIOLET HOMEN, *Oakland*

Observation, November 9, Lake County between Lakeport and Kelseyville, 1 immature and 1, possibly 2, adult White-tailed Kites. I watched them for a half an hour as they were perched, in flight, hovering or soaring. I understand kites are *coming back.*—EMIL SEKERAK, CASTRO VALLEY

ANNOUNCEMENT:—The Pacific Coast Office of the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, will have office hours through December *only,* as follows: Monday through Friday, 12 noon—5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.—5 p.m. Audubon gifts are available here.

DECEMBER MEETING

The 491st regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held Thursday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Assembly Room of the Main Library in San Francisco, Larkin St. at McAllister. Take No. 5 bus on Market St. The speaker will be Dr. Edward S. Ross, Curator of Entomology at the California Academy of Sciences, who has recently returned from a year-long expedition in Africa. His subject will be *African Nature Trails* and will cover the full range of African biological scene including its botany, reptiles, birds, and people. His Kodachrome slides are truly remarkable. Dr. Ross will edit them especially for Audubon. All members are invited. Come and bring friends.

Note: A no-host dinner at the Whitcomb Hotel, 1231 Market, near the library, will precede the meeting. Meet in the lobby near the dining room at 5:45 p.m. Everyone welcome. —Bonnie Smith, *Program Chairman*

FIELD TRIP FOR DECEMBER

On Sat. and Sun., December 6-7, to WILLOWS and GRIDLEY REFUGES. For particulars on this trip refer to November *Gull.*

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917
A Branch of the National Audubon Society since.. 1948

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042